

**This Week in Congress**

*July 10, 2006*

Dear Friend,

Welcome to "This Week in Congress." I hope you find this newsletter useful.

**Launching a New Website, Designed by Kansas Company**

I am pleased to let you know that I have launched a new website at <http://www.jerrymoran.house.gov/>. This website is designed to better serve you and facilitate communication between us.

Among the highlights of the new website are:

- [Services](#) : As your representative in Congress, I do more than work to pass legislation that benefits Kansans. I am available to help you interact with federal government agencies, to provide information on visiting Washington, D.C. and even receiving a nomination to a U.S. Service Academy. You can find all of this information and more in the Services section of my website.
- [About Jerry](#) : You can use this section to learn more about me, find out what committees I serve on in Congress, and view photos taken at various events I have attended.
- [Newsroom](#) : This section contains the latest news from both Washington, D.C. and Kansas. You can read news releases and speeches, listen to audio clips and even read this newsletter online.
- [Issues](#) : If you have questions about my position on different issues you may want to visit the Issues page of my new website. This page has information about my views on several issues important to Kansans. Included in this section you will also find other relevant information about these issues, including the daily commodity prices in Kansas on the Agriculture page.
- [Legislation](#) : In the Legislation section, you can view my voting record, follow action on the House floor and read about bills I have introduced.
- [Kansas](#) : This section has information about the Big First District, our state and links to important and useful state government websites.

I am proud that I was able to use a family-owned and operated Kansas company to design this new site. The 32-person staff at Brush Art Corporation, located in Downs, provided the artistic skills and creativity to make this site possible. Thanks to Tim Brush and the others on his crew who worked on the website.

As always, you can also use my website to share your comments on any issue. I would like to hear your comments on the new website. To submit a comment, please [click here](#) to compose an email that will be sent to my office. If you find the new site useful, please feel free to share it

with others.

### **Celebrating Independence Day, Dedicating the Gray County Veterans Memorial**

On Independence Day, I was in Cimarron to help area residents dedicate the community veterans memorial. More than 800 people attended the event outside the Gray County Courthouse, including about 100 Patriot Guard Riders from across the country. The memorial features nearly 2,000 names of veterans serving from Gray County, dating back to the Civil War. Plans for the memorial were in the works for nearly two years. It took the time and commitment of numerous volunteers and leaders, including co-chairmen Wiley McFarland and Curtis Campbell and program speaker, Steve Irsik Jr. Their work is to be commended.

It was a wonderful event and fitting to come together on July 4th to dedicate this memorial, pay tribute to our military men and women, and honor generations of Gray County veterans who have answered our country's call to serve. For full text of my speech, [click here](#).

Later that evening, I enjoyed attending the annual band concert and fireworks show at Old Fort Hays. Thank you to each of the band members that come out each year to put on this community performance.

### **House Passes Cost-of-Living Adjustment for Veterans and Dependents**

The House recently passed legislation I sponsored to provide an annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for service-disabled veterans and their families. Beginning December 1, 2006, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act would provide a cost-of-living adjustment to the compensation rates for 2.6 million veterans with service-connected disabilities and to the compensation rates paid to more than 340,000 spouses and children of service-disabled veterans. The cost-of-living adjustment is factored into various veterans' benefits programs.

Congress has approved such adjustments for veterans every year since 1976. This is one of the most important things our nation does for disabled veterans and surviving family members. Congress has a responsibility to care for veterans who rely on this benefit.

### **Attending the U.S. Senior Open in Hutchinson**

On Wednesday, I had the opportunity to attend the U.S. Senior Open, which was held in Hutchinson at Prairie Dunes Country Club. This event brought 115,000 people to the area

throughout Championship week. The tournament's spectators and players not only enjoyed good Kansas weather, but the golf course itself exceeded many peoples' expectations. Hutchinson is a great example of a progressive Kansas community that is always eager to extend its hospitality and share its attractions with visitors. I am proud of the community's accomplishment and pleased to have Kansas positively highlighted on a national level.

A tremendous amount of effort was needed to bring to realization this successful event. Specific thanks go to Allen Fee, General Chairman, Greg Conrad, Championship Director, and the several thousand volunteers whose hard work and determination helped bring an expected \$20 million economic impact to Hutchinson and other south central Kansas communities.

### **United Health Ministries Celebrates 20th Anniversary this Year**

This week, I visited the Health Ministry Fund in Hutchinson to learn more about the programs, grants and services they offer. This organization, formed by the United Methodist Church with a portion of the proceeds from the sale of Wesley Hospital in Wichita, is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. The Health Ministry Fund works to fulfill its mission of Healthy Kansans through philanthropy guided by Christian principles. The Health Fund serves the State of Kansas with special emphasis on the western two-thirds of the state. It was encouraging to see that from its beginnings with a \$30 million endowment, the Health Fund has made available grants totaling more than \$34.5 million to improve the health, healing and wholeness of Kansans. I appreciated meeting with Health Fund trustees Sheila Frahm and Janet Hamilton Newton, as well as Matt Kuzma, Kim Moore, Jeff Gamber, Virginia Elliott and Rachel Pearson.

### **Spending Time in Nickerson and Visiting with the Spearville Lions Club**

This week, I spent time in the communities of Nickerson and Spearville. In Nickerson, I had the opportunity to meet with several area residents at various places in town, including the local post office, City Hall, Sunshine Cafe, Peoples Bank and Trust, Berridge's Grocery, Farmers Co-op and the Kwik Shop.

On Friday evening, I joined the Spearville Lions Club for a special meeting at St. John's Parish Center. I enjoyed visiting with the group about current topics, including immigration and farm issues. Spearville is home to a new wind farm that will generate 100.5 megawatts of energy, which is enough to supply approximately 33,000 homes. This will be a great addition to the economy of this Ford County community. I enjoyed meeting with the local Lions Club members at the invitation of Ken Domer and appreciated the hospitality of the club members and president Mike Shafer.

### **Attending Barton County Fair and Riding in McCracken Parade**

On Saturday, I joined residents in Rush and Barton Counties for annual community events. In McCracken, the small community of about 200 people welcomed me for the local downtown parade. The day's events also included an alumni luncheon that drew many generations of

McCracken natives back home. McCracken also hosted the 20th anniversary of its award-winning rodeo this weekend and honored the rodeo's founder, Jack Wilson, who passed away earlier this year. Mr. Wilson dedicated his life to the McCracken rodeo and transformed it into a notable annual Kansas event.

I later attended the Barton County Fair, just outside of Great Bend, for the annual watermelon feed. I enjoyed the opportunity to visit with many area residents attending the activities at the fair.

### **In the Office**

Paige Girard of Clyde was in the office this week to share her experiences as a student with the Presidential Classroom program. In this week for tours of the United States Capitol building were Bill and Ginger Delker of Abilene with their son, Ethan, Todd Trostle and Tiphani Allen of Nickerson, and Irv and Susan Mitchell of Wilson.

Very truly yours,

Jerry